

SOUTHERN Farm Leader

Dedicated to the farm workers', sharecroppers', tenants' and small owners' struggle for union, justice and a better life.

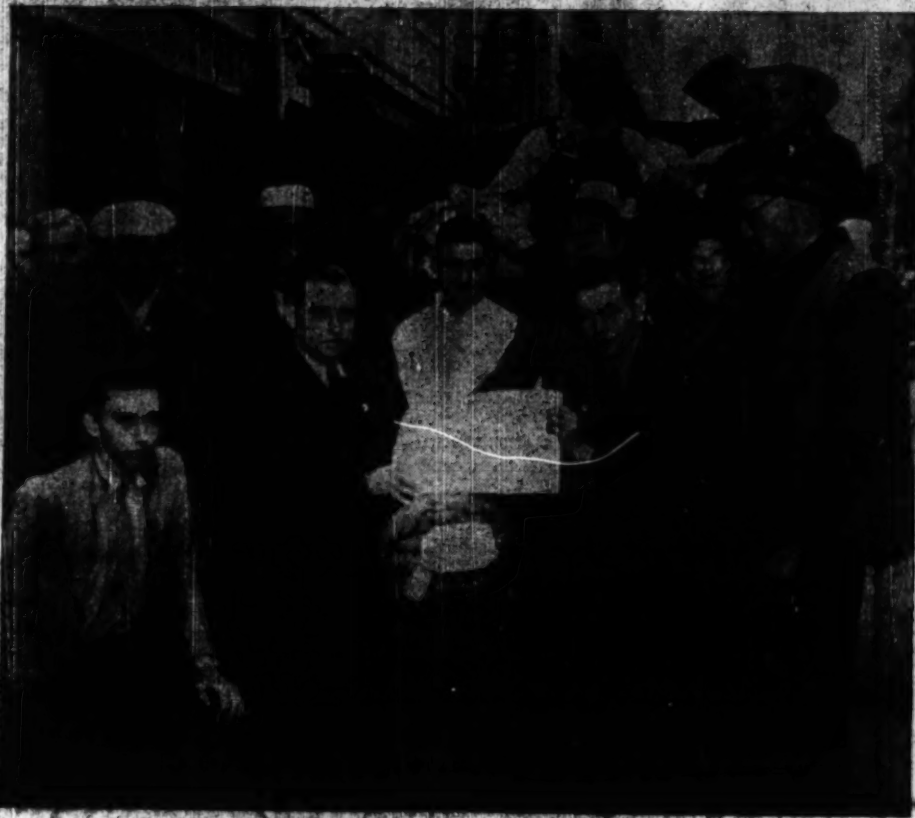
OFFICIAL ORGAN SHARE CROPPERS UNION

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NEW ORLEANS, LA., NOVEMBER, 1936

PRICE 2 CENTS COPY

FIRST LOUISIANA UNION LABEL FARM PRODUCE FOR MARITIME STRIKERS



REAL STEP TAKEN FOR FARMER-LABOR UNITY

NEW ORLEANS, La.—50 sacks of sweet potatoes, the first union label farm produce in Louisiana, was delivered as a donation to striking seamen and longshoremen here. The above picture shows Farmers' Union members delivering the potatoes to members of the Joint Strike Committee.

Pictured above are the strike leaders receiving the sweet potatoes from the Farmers' Union. In the front row, right to left, are Adolph Richard, Vice Pres., Local No. 13 Farmers' Union; Clyde L. Johnson, organizer, Louisiana Farmers' Union; Robert Meers, Chairman, Seaman's Strike Committee; Gordon McIntire, editor, Southern Farm Leader; middle

row, right to left, are Theodore Richard, Pres. Palmetto Local Farmers' Union; Charles Stein, Vice Pres. Local No. 1236 International Longshoremen's Association; Wm. Donald, editor The Federationist and labor leader; J. V. Spencer and C. Clay, President and Vice Pres., respectively of Local No. 231, International Longshoremen's Association; on the truck, right to left, are Eddie Richard, President, Local No. 13 Farmers' Union; Leroy Landry, member Local No. 2, Farmers' Union; and Victor La Fontaine, member Local No. 6 Farmers' Union.

The seamen and longshoremen who struck here two weeks ago in sympathy with the West Coast Maritime

Workers, have joined the national waterfront strike movement. The West Coast shipowners have refused to sign an agreement with the unions and want to hire scabs, lower wages and break the union there.

The shipowners in New Orleans have used city police to arrest almost 200 strikers on false charges. Most of the strikers have been freed but several rank and file leaders are now serving jail sentences. A strong protest is being made against these violations of the strikers' rights.

The shipment of union label potatoes marks the beginning of a drive to organize all working farmers around the Farmer-Labor Co-operation plan to secure regulated markets and cost of production prices.

St. Landry Parish union members are organizing to control the sweet potato market and plan to work out Farmer-Labor agreements in other cities.

Share Croppers Union & Alabama Farmers' Union May Unite In Near Future

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Committees from the Alabama Farmers' Union and Share Croppers Union reached agreement on terms for combining the two unions at the A.F.U. convention held here October 29-30. The Committee from the Share Croppers Union will report favorably on the proposed amalgamation at the next Executive Council meeting.

The A. F. U. convention expressed the desire for unity by adopting the following resolution on program introduced by a member of the S. C. U.:

SHARECROPPER RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Division, Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, will strive with all its power to secure:

1. The right of sharecroppers and tenant farmers to gin and sell their own cotton.
2. The right of day laborers, sharecroppers, and tenant farmers to cash crop advances, the right to trade where they please, and for abolition of the commissary store system.
3. The right to check and inspect accounts between landlord and sharecropper or tenant by his or their chosen representatives.
4. The right of sharecroppers and tenants to government relief without the necessity of the landlord's authorization.
5. Higher wages for farm workers and abolition of the "Southern Wage Differential."
6. Abolition of the poll tax.
7. Federal support of education, free text books, better buildings, adequate transportation facilities, and free hot lunches.
8. An end to violence against union members, prosecution by state and federal authorities of those who violate our civil and constitutional rights, and the right to organize, meet, strike, picket and bargain collectively.
9. Cancellation of unjust debts to large landlords. Protection of stock, tools, and other property of sharecroppers and tenants against seizure for debt.
10. No discrimination against colored farmers on these proposals.

NATIONAL SECRETARY SPEAKS
The first day of the convention E. E. Kennedy, National Secretary, spoke at length on the program of

(Continued On Page Three)

Ask Removal Of Arkansas D. A. In STFU Slander

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—District Attorney F. A. Iagrig's removal from office is being demanded by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union for misinterpreting a letter that was appealing for defense funds sent to the Union members by the Workers' Defense League of New York.

According to Iagrig's statement it is against the law to fight peonage in Arkansas. Stamps bearing the words "Cablegram Address: Central National Bank" were included in the letter sent to Union members.

Iagrig claimed there was no peonage in the state after City Marshall P. D. Pochers of Earle had been indicted by a grand jury for "aiding and abetting in holding in slavery."

The S.T.F.U. is calling upon all Unions to demand the removal of Iagrig from office and the anti-union "investigation" sought by Iagrig be killed.

BURNED ALIVE

BROWNFIELD, Texas.—Three children ages 5 years, 4 years and 19 months burned to death in their tent home. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lindsey had left them in order to go pick cotton on a neighboring plantation. Were nurses provided to take care of children while parents worked such tragedies would never happen.

KIDS NICKELS KEEP MISS. SCHOOL OPEN ABSENTEE OWNERS RULE OKLA. FARMS

JACKSON, Miss.—Mississippi kids donated nickels and dimes to keep schools open while the State Treasury announced a 16 million dollar surplus.

Schools barely escaped closing before the required 4 month term was over. The state equalizing fund for school terms over 4 months was released at the last minute in the face of a Supreme Court decision denying the right to use these funds.

Prentiss County teachers held a mass meeting October 22nd in protest against closing rural schools and a 34¢ wage cut announced by Superintendent Wright. Teachers and bus drivers depend on contributions for their "board and keep."

In the meantime a cash surplus of \$19,090,778 in the general and special fund accounts of the Mississippi State Treasury was announced.

If education was a primary charge of the state, funds would be obtained easier. The need for Federal aid is urgent too. Mississippi ranks at the bottom of the list for the percent of literacy.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—Absentee landlords own 75% of the farms in Oklahoma according to the last census report. This was told to the Oklahoma Farm Tenancy conference here Oct. 24th by Tom Cheek, President of the Oklahoma Farmers' Union.

J. R. Butler, President of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, advocated giving tenant farmers a "chance to own their own farms. Not just claims up on the rocky hillside, but good land which will really make them a living."

The poverty of the tenant farmer, the poor condition of the land and many other things brought out at the conference prove the need for immediate action to aid the tenant farmer.

A committee including Odie Sweden, Secretary of the Oklahoma Tenant Farmers' Union, Tom Cheek, President of the Oklahoma Farmers' Union and W. E. Simpson, Editor of the Oklahoma Union Farmer was appointed by Governor Harland to bring in recommendations for legislation.

WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED!

The Resettlement Administration plans to rehabilitate 15 farm families at the expense of 20 others. This is the situation on the St. Landry Farm near Opelousas, La. Most of the present tenants are Farmers' Union members. The following telegram was sent to R. G. Tugwell, Resettlement Administrator, Washington, D. C., just before this issue went to press.

"Received no reply to telegram of November 8th. White and Negro farmers insist on immediate action allowing them to remain on St. Landry Farm and that Resettlement supply loans for teams, tools and winter supplies. Parish supervisor Louis Fontenot says most of present tenants eligible for Resettlement and are not given enough time to make satisfactory arrangements for next year. Overman Albert de Jena says all tenants capable farmers. Fontenot says Negro Resettlement clients paid up loans better than white in St. Landry. Insist you make project for both white and Negro allowing present tenants to remain if they choose."

The farmers had heard during the summer that the "government" had an option on the farm and might buy it. There were also other rumors that this was not true. It was not until last Friday that Mr. W. S. Terry, Jr., came to serve notice to several of the farmers that they would have to be off the place by December first. Of the eleven tenants interviewed by this writer only three had been notified directly to move.

Most of the families on the farm have gardens planted which will not mature till after December first. They are depending upon these vegetables for food for themselves and to make up for the food crops lost by the drought. Several had been

using scrap lumber to patch up the shacks and make them more comfortable for winter.

One tenant with 13 children brought his own wire for garden fence and had paid \$14.00 for more wire. When he was notified last week he was told that he must leave that on the place. He said that it was too late to get a good farm. He was told that if he was not off the place by December first that the sheriff would put him off and keep him off. Most of the tenants make their arrangements to move during July and August.

Another farmer with 8 in his family had cleared off his farm 17 years ago and had been there ever since. He said that the first two years the briars were so thick that he got \$300 in debt to the landlord. It took five long years for him to work himself out of debt. He has seen six different overseers come and go while he has been on the place.

SCOTSBORO BOYS TRIAL IS DELAYED

Eight of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys were to have been tried again early this month but Judge W. W. Callahan is sick and the trial has been put off. The date is to be set this month. If Judge Callahan does not get well by the end of November a new judge will probably be appointed.

The boys have been in jail for five years and a half waiting for different trials and hearings. Heywood Patterson was convicted in January and sentenced to 75 years in prison. His case is being appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court. Clarence Norris will probably be the first one of the other eight boys to be tried. He was convicted twice and given the death sentence but the United States Supreme Court said that the trials were unfair because there were no Negroes allowed on the jury.

The protests sent in for the Scottsboro boys has already helped other Negroes in the South in getting fair trials. When a Negro named Tommie Walls was convicted in Charlotte, N. C., the Supreme Court Judge, J. Will Pless threw the case out because he found that Negroes were not allowed on the jury.

The Scottsboro Defense Committee held a rally October 25th with the cooperation of other organizations. Among them were the American Civil Liberties Union, the Church League for Industrial Democracy, the Methodist Federation for Social Justice, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and the International Labor Defense.

UNIONS AID GELDERS

William Mitch, president of the Alabama Federation of Labor, was elected chairman of a committee to protest the brutal beating of Joseph Gelders. Representatives of different unions have formed this permanent committee to make protest to city, state and federal authorities "as a safeguard of the constitutional rights of every man in free America."

Three of the thugs have already been identified by Mr. Gelders. Two of them are Captain Walter J. Hanna and Second Lieutenant Dent Williams of the Alabama National Guard. It is the duty of all union men to see that Governor Graves carries through the prosecution of Gelders' attackers.

LETTUCE STRIKE GETS BLACKLIST

SALINAS, Calif.—The strike of 4000 lettuce workers was betrayed by reactionary union officials who signed an agreement with the Grower-Shippers Association here allowing scabs to remain on the job and permitting Growers to refuse employment to anyone they term "trouble-makers"—meaning union workers.

The strikers, after putting up a heroic fight for two and a half months against all forms of police and lynch terror, realized they could do very little with Deas and Shelvin of the Fruit and Vegetable Union (A.F.L.) signing things, and voted to end the strike.

The old wage scale, 75c an hour for packers and 55c for trimmers, remained in effect. The main strike demand of hiring through the union first, was not mentioned in the agreement. A system of local preferences which takes in non-union men is contained in the settlement.

**BUILD YOUR UNION
BUY UNION LABEL GOODS**

WPA WOMEN WORK DITCH WITH PICKS

Forcing women to do heavy man's work seems to be the relief policy in Alabama. Widows and mothers whose husbands are crippled or unable to work should be given a square deal if anyone is.

Since November 1935 women have been doing heavy manual labor on the Soil Conservation Projects in Tallapoosa and neighboring counties. It is a common thing to see women loading trucks alongside men on the same job.

The Share Croppers Union locals must protest and expose such conditions. Get your local to thoroughly discuss conditions of farmers on relief. After the local has acted, have the secretary write letters to the editor of "Southern Farm Leader."

FARM HANDS AT AFL CONVENTION

The 56th Convention of the American Federation of Labor, meeting in Tampa, Florida, the last two weeks in November, will hear the farm wage workers plea for an International Agricultural Workers Union charter. The conventions of the California, Colorado and New Jersey State Federations of Labor have adopted resolutions to present to the convention supporting the farm workers demand.

More than half the farm population are wage laborers and they are the largest single industrial group. At present the A. F. L. only grants charters to Federal locals, and these come directly under the Executive Council of the A. F. L. There are about 35 of these locals organized, but not connected with one another. Thousands of cotton workers are organized in the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and the Share Croppers Union.

A charter for an International Agricultural Workers Union will give the most exploited workers in America a home in the ranks of organized labor. Farm workers get the lowest wages, work the longest hours and suffer more unemployment than any other group. This condition tends to lower living standards of workers in other industries.

In the last few years agricultural workers have shown real determination to organize and have carried on heroic struggles for better conditions. United in an A. F. L. union they will win much for themselves and will add power to the American labor movement.

500 HOLD ELECTION RALLY IN WINSTON

HALEYVILLE, Ala.—500 farmers gathered here Oct. 11th at the Farmers' Union Six County District meeting to hear speakers on the election campaign. All political parties were invited. The Democrat and Socialist speakers failed to appear.

C. O. Vardeman, bald-headed chairman of the Young Republicans, attacked the Roosevelt Administration as "red" and "radical." His speech was very long winded and didn't mention the farmers' needs.

Belle Barton, young Georgia farm girl, presented the Communist position on the election campaign. It was the first time a Communist spoke at a meeting in Winston County. Miss Barton attacked the Republicans as tools of Wall Street and Hearst and urged the farmers to fight for progressive laws and government aid to farmers. She asked support for the Farmer-Labor party movement.

W. C. Irby, of the Farmers' Union and candidate for the United States Senate, attacked the Republican party as reactionary and urged support of the Farmer-Labor party movement.

Drouth Conference

ST. LANDRY FARMERS NEED CORN RELIEF



250 delegates from 10 drouth-stricken states met in Sioux City, Iowa, September 29-30 and adopted a national program for drouth relief. In the picture, front row, left to right, are Oscar Brekke, South Dakota, State Pres. Farmers' Holiday Association; G. L. Harrison, Iowa Farmers' Union; L. I. Guthridge, Iowa, Conference Secretary; Rev. W. M. Stephen, Oklahoma, Southern Tenant Farmers' Union; Odie Swenden, Oklahoma, S. T. F. U.; O. L. Webber, South Dakota, Chairman of Conference. Back row, left to right, are Eddie Richard, Louisiana, Pres. Ward 6 Local, Farmers' Union; John E. Richard, Louisiana, Pres. Opelousas Local, Farmers' Union; M. W. Martin, Alabama, Sec'y Local 367, Farmers' Union; J. N. Juenemann, South Dakota, Pres. Workers' Alliance; Daniel Thornton, Louisiana, Sec'y Batchelor Local, Farmers' Union.

OPELOUSAS, La.—The corn crop was ruined in St. Landry parish. The following letter was sent to H. A. Wallace in Washington and H. J. Early, Louisiana Relief Administrator, Baton Rouge, "Dear Sirs, The drouth in this section—ruined the corn crop—farmers here need corn to feed their stock through the winter, corn to fatten their hogs and corn to make bread for their families. Therefore we are petitioning the government to supply corn free of charge—in amount sufficient to meet their needs." The letter was signed by the presidents and secretaries of the Bellview, Opelousas, Washington, Plaquemine and Ward 6 Locals and Local No. 15 of the Farmers' Union in St. Landry parish.

Mr. Early replied saying his organization had no funds for these purposes and referred the request to the Resettlement Administration

in New Orleans. Mr. G. D. Swander, Asst. State Director of Resettlement, said Louisiana was not included in the emergency drouth area and his organization has no funds for this purpose.

Mr. Wallace has not replied to the letter as yet. However, it is certain now that the farmers will have to bring pressure on Washington to get corn relief. Mr. Wallace says the money set aside for drouth relief is being used in the Mid-Western states and funds are running short. We cannot excuse Wallace on this count. Mr. Wallace and other Washington officials knew there was a drouth before the last Congress closed. They didn't ask Congress for a penny for drouth relief. The farmers will not starve because of Wallace's neglect. St. Landry parish farmers demand that corn relief be furnished right away because they need it right now!

WALL STREET MONEY CONTROL HAS ROBBED PEOPLE OF RIGHT TO LIVE!

By W. C. IRBY, Jacksonville, Alabama, Member Nat'l Board, Nat'l Farmers Union

(Editor's note: This is the first of a series of articles by Mr. Irby on topics of interest to all farmers.)

Intolerable Burden of Taxes and Interest

During the war between the states a circular letter, known as the Hazard circular was distributed among the bankers and money lenders of this country from the Bank of England.

It was as follows:

"Slavery is likely to be abolished by the war power, and chattel slavery destroyed. This I and my European friends are in favor of, for slavery is but the owning of labor and carries with it the care for the laborer, while the European plan, led on by England is for capital to control labor by controlling the wages.

"This can be done by controlling the money. The great debt the capitalists will see to it is made out of the war must be used as a means to control the volume of money. To accomplish this the bonds must be used as a banking basis. We are now waiting for the Secretary of the Treasury to make this recommendation to Congress. It will not do to allow the greenbacks as it is called, to circulate as money any length of time, as we cannot control that."

So said the Bank of England—"Don't own the laborers for when sick you will have to furnish them doctors, medicine, etc. and when old and worn out, you will have to feed, clothe and even bury them when they die." "Just control their wages" as Europe does "and you can starve all the people, white and colored, into submission to any condition you put upon them." Control the price of cotton, wheat,

corn and other products. It is the farmers wages, same as the money in the pay envelope of the workers in the mines and factories.

It showed that the Secretary of the Treasury had agreed to recommend to Congress the passage of a money law that would make slaves of the people of America to the International Bankers. He afterwards admitted it was the greatest mistake of his life. President Lincoln advised against the law.

The following will show the truth and prophecy of the Bank of England's letter and also of Mr. Rothschild's startling statement "Give me the power to issue and control the money of a nation and I care not who makes the laws."

The Federal Reserve Banks

Not long ago, we were told that the Federal Reserve Banking law was passed to protect the people from banking monopolies. According to a speech in the United States Senate by Senator Thomas E. Watson of Georgia, that law was written in Germany by a German banker named Warburg and brought to this country by an American citizen living in Germany at the time, who was made Assistant Secretary of the Treasury to show them how to put it on the American people like Germany did on her people. Mr. Pierpont Morgan, the agent of the International Bankers, played a leading part in establishing the Federal Reserve Banking System.

40% Interest On Our Own Money

While the American people have been asleep to their interests, the International Bankers have been entwining their slimy tendrils about the industrial life of the nation until they dominate absolutely the standard of living of the American people.

4 MONTHS JAIL THO CLEARED IN COURT

Brother Editor:-

A neighbor of mine was framed up and arrested because they said he stole a cow. He beat the case in court. When he was leaving the court room the judge told him to come back the next morning, but not to bring any witnesses. They said they wanted to talk to him about something very important.

When he returned to the court house they had backwards and forwards but they couldn't give him any charge at all. But they put him in jail for 4 months anyhow so he wouldn't have a chance to raise anything to eat during the winter months.

LOCAL SECRETARY
Dallas County, Ala.

Ala. Convention

Continued From Page 1

the Union and urged the members to build the union and stick by it. He explained the Frasier-Lemke Farm Mortgage Refinancing Bill and the Thomas-Massingale Cost of Production Bill that the Farmers' Union is fighting to have passed by Congress. Both bills will be pushed in the next session.

E. Z. Yeager, Vice-President of the Alabama Federation of Labor, brought greetings from the State Federation and urged co-operation between workers and farmers by using the union label. He urged the farmers to organize and compared the union farmers to a bunch of bananas; when one leaves the bunch he gets the devil skinned out of him.

Clyde Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Share Croppers Union, spoke on the program and history of the S. C. U. and for unity with the Alabama Farmers' Union. He urged adoption of a progressive program and a real campaign to organize Alabama farmers 100%.

RE-ELECT OFFICERS

W. H. Sartain of Parrish was re-elected State President, J. W. Clemmons of Baldwin County was re-elected Vice-President, and G. S. Gravelle of Sumiton was re-elected State Secretary.

Readers are urged to write letters, news and suggestions on how to improve the paper. Subscribe to the Southern Farm Leader
Box 859, New Orleans, La.

WANT LAND FOR ST. LANDRY MEN

Brother Editor:-

Ten unable tenants, half hands, ten organized families on this farm are all in the same condition.

They are willing to work their own teams if they could get the loan to back them for their teams.

They wouldn't stand to be moved. They all want to stay where they are, its no use for no one to try moving them away, because they cannot be removed. They won't move because they love their homes. Why didn't they move here before we came here? We stood for all the punching and punishment in old shacks. The only time it didn't rain indoors was when it didn't rain outdoors.

Now its going to be rebuilt and they are trying to fool the Negroes and put them off and they want to put whites on the place. Just because its going to be rebuilt they find that it is too good for Negroes. But we ten families shall not move at all. The ones that will try to move us will find out what Farmers' Union means.

MEMBER, LOCAL NO. 6
LA. FARMERS' UNION
Opelousas, La.

NO SLAP FOR HIM!

Brother Editor:-

There was a farm meeting in Opelousas on Oct. 16th. Mr. J. B. Davis and other Farmers' Union men from the North were there, both white and colored. Mr. Wybler and Mr. Smith were both there to hear and see for themselves.

After the meeting was over a man from the North called everybody up to shake hands with Mr. Wybler and Mr. Smith. They all went and shook hands excepting me. I had a reason not to shake hands with him because I have not forgotten the slap he gave me last year. He might up and give me another slap.

Afterwards I went to have a talk with Mr. Smith. He told me he didn't know if we could stay on St. Landry farm or not. I told him we were not going to move.

MEMBER, LOCAL NO. 6
LA. FARMERS' UNION
Opelousas, La.



Harry Correl, Sec'y of the Sioux City Drouth Conference Continuations Committee, has sent a detailed account of the drouth needs of the farmers and the demands of the Conference to President Roosevelt. Copies of the conference resolutions may be obtained from Mr. Correl at P. O. Box 540, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

WANTS A TEAM

Brother Editor:-

I went to the farm loan office. Mr. Fontenot asked me what we wanted and I told him that I wanted to borrow money to buy a team and tools and he told me that they didn't make any loan for the farmers anymore. He told me to see somewhere else. So I am sending you this information.

I am working on half and I would be glad to get a team to work on thirds but I am unable to get it. Also I'm ordered to leave where I am now so I would be glad to borrow a loan, buy a team and tools and also a place too.

Can you see the man who is to run St. Landry farm and get me a place? There is one who has left the place already and they tell me that there are two or three more who is to leave.

Now brother, please see to it that I have a place there.

MEMBER, WARD 6 LOCAL
LA. FARMERS' UNION
Church Point, La.

RENT FIGHT

HATTIESBURG, Miss.-A fight over farm rent resulted in the killing of John C. Duncan, landlord.

Joe May, tenant farmer, shot Duncan as he attempted to beat in the door of May's house with a shovel.

FARMERS GET NO AID IN ST. LANDRY

Brother Editor:-

I went to the relief office today when I got in they told me to sit down until my time came. They were waiting on the old folks and when my time came they opened the door and let the others out and let me in and asked me what I wanted. I told them I had come for relief.

They asked me how large my family was. I told them thirteen children—fifteen with me and my wife. They asked me what I need. I told them I had to have some clothes for me and my family because I didn't make enough money.

She asked me what I bought with my money. I told her I had bought clothes and food with it. But it was not enough. I told her I need food and clothes and shoes. She told me they was doing nothing for the farmers and it was no use for me to come back.

A white man came there with his father. They would not serve him at all. It was for him to take care of his father. It was a man from Big Cane. They told them that they had to go investigate them before they could do anything for them. Everyone that went in there told me that the office was running crooked because they was doing nothing for the farmers.

It is a mighty poor chance for us to get relief in Opelousas, La. They turn many cases down that sure are miserable cases.

I need relief. The little cash I had come out with is gone. I placed it good. I bought clothes and food and a stove because we was out of a stove and one bed and I still am in need of one more bed and unable to buy it. Children got to sleep on the floor. We need quilts and mattresses.

MEMBER, LOCAL NO. 15,
LA. FARMERS' UNION
Opelousas, La.

NEED CORN NOW!

Brother Editor:-

Here is only a few lines just to let you hear from me. I went to the relief office yesterday. That was Monday. The relief told me that it was nothing doing for the farmers this year. No relief for the farmers. I sure need relief bad because I did not make much corn at all. The

LA. HILL FARMERS NEED DEBT RELIEF

Brother Editor:-

In this section of the hill country, Sabine, Vernon and Natchitoches parishes, an economic condition exists among the farmers that is fast approaching bankruptcy.

This section is comprised of small farmers. Cotton is the only marketable crop they have that can be sold to advantage. With this condition the living standard is low. The unusual weather conditions this year has added greatly to their poverty. Many of them are unable to pay out of debt. In some cases they are being foreclosed by the Federal Land Bank, or being sued by their creditors who take whatever they have. If the poor farmer doesn't possess enough of the material means to satisfy his creditors, then they get a judgement against him.

There is no relief set-up for these farmers. If they haven't the necessary collateral to get a loan, then they will be unable to live and make a crop next year.

Something must be done to relieve them of this terrible economic condition. It is evident that the only way is to organize and struggle for a better life. Join and support the Farmers' Union.

PRESIDENT, LOCAL NO. 4

LA. FARMERS' UNION
Bellwood, La.

LEE COUNTY UP

Brother Editor:-

Enclosed is 61c for October dues. We are writing a request for a better school, for better homes, better clothes to wear, and for higher wages and a better system. We farmers want money on long term loans. Then we can pay it back and feed and clothe our family as we wish. Lee County is in bad shape. But we are doing all we can.

LOCAL SECRETARY,
Waverly, Ala.

drought struck my crop then I had to give half to my landlord. I been struck very bad by the rain and by the drought.

I have five children to support, seven from me and my wife. I am in a miserable condition and need relief, and can't get it from the relief station in Opelousas.

MEMBER, LOCAL NO. 13
LA. FARMERS' UNION
Church Point, La.

My Constitution Must Have Food, Clothes And Shelter — Is This Unconstitutional

By MCKINLEY GILBERT
President, Local No. 387
Alabama Farmers' Union

When the greatest exponent of our constitution and of our union, Daniel Webster, spoke of democratic government, he said this:

"The freest government, if it could exist, would not be long acceptable if the tendencies of the law were to create a rapid accumulation of property in few hands and to render the great mass of the population dependent. Universal suffrage, for example, could not long exist in a Community where there was a great inequality of property. In the nature of things, those who have no property and no other means of support, must be dependent on those who have property, and their neighbors possess much more than they think them to need, cannot be favorable to laws made for the protection of property."

Of late much is being said about the constitution of our United States of America. Nothing is said about my constitution. Yet my constitution is by far the most important, for it is the constitution of every man, woman and child on the earth.

I am writing about our constitution as interpreted by the nine who sit in Washington, D. C. in comparison to my constitution.

The constitution of the USA was written by a select and a well aged

My constitution was written millions of years ago. The constitution of the USA, we are told, is the greatest document ever conceived by the mind of mortal man. My constitution was promulgated by the All Father who sowed the stars into space, separated light and darkness, land and water, and breathed life into dead forms.

The constitution of the USA is written on paper. My constitution is written in every bone, muscle, blood, corpuscle, nerve and cell in my body. My constitution demands three meals a day, a bed to sleep in and clothes to keep warm. The approved way in which I satisfy the demand of my constitution is by turning the raw materials of nature into things useful to me and my constitution. I work with soil, sunshine and rain, to feed and shelter my body. I work with wind, water and fire, to shape my tools.

I am nature and life.
I am cause and effect.
I am purpose and means.
I am the child of creation, creating.

I am born, I mate, and beget and return to earth in accordance to eternal law. The constitution of the USA says nothing about soil, sunshine, and rain; says nothing about wind, fire and water; says nothing about food, clothing and shelter;

says nothing about the tools of my trade; says nothing about birth, mating and death.

Begotten by the puny mind of mortal man, it knows not the might of nature. What a queer thing this constitution of the USA. After declaring the protection of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the purpose of government, the constitution delivers life into the hands of property.

Nature knows nothing about property. It abets its bounties in return for my labor. Yet under the constitution I am denied access to Mother Nature and the tools of my calling unless I possess an admission ticket called title deed.

The constitution gives me the right to speak, write and vote. It denies me the God-given right to work and eat unless I'm the possessor of soil and tools.

Propertyless, I only can earn the wherewithal of my being at the sufferance of property. Propertyless, I have neither the right to till, dig or reap.

The framers of the constitution of the U. S. says property cannot be taken away without just compensation of the millions. They say these millions of life cases are too far out to make food for the world and bread. They say that these

ands of silent factories filled with the iron slaves of science are not to create shoes for your barefeet; clothing for your naked back, roof for your homeless heads.

Ah, there's the rub. If I were property, the constitution of the U. S. would protect me as it protects ass, ox, bull, banker and speculator. But alas, I am not property. The strength of my arms, the skill of my fingers, the cunning of my brain is not property. It is only life. And life may be taken without due process of law, by simply depriving it of access to soil and tools.

They close up their factories and let life rot in back alleys. The plow rusts in fallow fields while discarded husbandmen seek food in garbage cans.

Idle mine mules munch hay in warm stables. Idle miners go hungry in chilly shacks. Fathers pound the bricks in search of honest toil. Sons roam the highways, mooching hand-outs. Daughters walk the streets selling flesh for clothes. Brothers dry up. Babies starve. Mothers weep in their sleep. Who cares? The Constitution of the U. S. is not for them.

Woe mine. I am dragged from home of loved ones. My body suffers like thousands, pneumonia in striking tremors. The light of my eyes is switched off by flying bullets and

iron splinters. My eardrums are burst by thunder of murder machines. My lungs are drenched in poison gas. My entrails mix with dirt and gore. My jaws are gone, my legs blown off. I am a rotting carcass in a man-made hell hole.

All this is very hard on my constitution but in full accord with the constitution of the U. S., for under it property is all and life is nothing. Yet my constitution will prevail in spite of dungeon, faggots, fallows, and supreme court decisions. My constitution laughs at all of them.

What a farce. My constitution unconstitutional? My constitution put to shame the decrees of princes, popes and kings. My constitution swept into the rubbish chamber of history institutions declared eternal by mortals claiming authority from God himself.

My constitution unconstitutional, is it? I am to live and perpetuate life only with the consent of property? I am to be cast aside like a broken toy blade whenever property has no more use for me? The nine old gentlemen in Washington heard the distant rumble of the belly laugh. The belly laugh of my constitution which down Babylon, Tyne, Athens and Rome and all the cities of the world, for my constitution is life eternal.